

# Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

Vol. 9 No. 3

Friday, March 28, 2014

## The Conservation Pledge

*I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.*

## America, Canada, and Mexico Agree Upon the Monarch Emblem

Last month AMERICA's *President Obama*, CANADA's *Prime Minister Harper*, and MEXICO's *President Pena Nieto* united to safeguard the annual 2,800 mile migration of *Monarch* butterflies. The *Monarchs* bond the three nations by pre-dating borders. According to *Pena Nieto* all three leaders are creating a tri-national group for the conservation of the *Monarch* butterfly, as an emblematic species of NORTH AMERICA, which unites our three countries.

In 1993 there were a billion migrating *Monarch* butterflies, when GLYPHOSATE, also called ROUND-UP READY, was introduced into the environment, without an ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) review.

A report in *Chemical and Engineering News* details that the *Natural Resources Defense Council* has now actually filed a petition requesting the EPA's review! In 2015 the EPA shall conduct an ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION assessment review of GLYPHOSATE's mass invasion on a fragile ecosystem.

CEO and President *Carter Roberts*, with the *World Wildlife Fund*, is pleased. So is Professor *Karen Oberhauser* with the UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, who informs that the biological pesticide crops have exterminated *Milkweed* from the Midwest Corn Belt. The problem has snowballed because of GMO/GE pollen drift contamination all across NORTH AMERICA.

In March the *Monarch* butterflies of MEXICO migrate to the Midwest Corn Belt in search of *milkweed*. Eggs are laid in AMERICA. The second generation continues the migration North into CANADA. The third generation migrates back down to CALIFORNIA. The fourth returns to their ancestral MEXICO home until it is spring again.

The pledge by all-three leaders to stop the destruction of *Monarch* habitat may save the *Monarchs* for centuries to come.

The AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE (AAEM) now recommends that its more than 600 medical doctors and natural health practitioners encourage their patients to adopt GMO-free diets.

(Issue 12, 2014, ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNITY PRESS, "*Monarchs decline as Milkweed vanish*" by Vanessa Houk; January/February 2014, Issue 97, GREEN AMERICAN, "*Uncovering Deadly Research Suppression and Bias Toward Biotech*" ; [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org) )

.....

March 27, 2014

Page 2

### NASDA

The *National Association of State Departments of Agriculture* (NASDA) makes sure its collective gets its members to bark up the tree whenever NASDA needs them to, in dealing with “difficult” issues at the individual state level.

The issues at this year's most recent NASDA conference included drone use, the free trade agreements, the *Food Safety Modernization Act* (FSMA), invasive species, the *Specialty Crop Block Grant Program*, and water quality.

When the issues are bigger than state agency level, then NASDA interacts with the American People's elected CONGRESS people. NASDA invites federal officials as their speakers at their twice a year conventions in Washington, D.C. that they call “Policy conferences”, at which time NASDA's 11-members that represent the Midwest, Northeast, Southeast, and Western region.

OREGON is part of the NASDA's *Western Region*. There are 13 Western states with a collective voice in NASDA. The member states' activities and messages are coordinated by NASDA and NASDA calls it “directives” when communicating with NASDA's federal partners who then “direct” agricultural messages to CONGRESS.

According to *Katy Coba*, Director of the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ODA), her participation with NASDA during the past decade plays a lead role in NASDA's proceedings, because she Chairs NASDA's *Food Regulation and Nutrition Committee* (FSMA). She develops NASDA's comments on behalf of *all* state agriculture departments, in order for FSMA to have a sweeping impact on AMERICA's farmers. She admits to relying on NASDA staff to carry ODA's messages since NASDA is the Capitol Hill player whose voice weighs in on the U.S. FARM BILL.

NASDA also lobbies for increased funding for the *Specialty Crop Block Grant Program* and its plant, pest, and disease management program, and funding for the *Market Access Program* (MAP) for research to “enhance” AMERICA's food production and fiber production. NASDA pushes hard for a unified food processing and farming front.

At NASDA's most recent convention, NASDA's invited guest speakers were the U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY's (EPA) Administrator *Gina McCarthy*, two top Deputy Commissioners of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (U.S.D.A.), and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture *Tom Vilsack*. The approval of the FARM BILL by the SENATE for presidential signature coincided curiously with *Vilsack's* visit to NASDA. Did you ever wonder who foots the cost of all this NASDA Association's “Unity”.

(Source: February 20, 2014, OREGON LEGAL JOURNAL, “National association helps OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (ODA) and agriculture”, press release)

### The Precautionary Principle

In 1998 a group of environmental advocates, lawyers, and scientists met at the *Wingspred Conference Center*, in *Racine*, WISCONSON, because environmental regulations and decisions based on risk assessment had failed to adequately protect human health and the environment of which Man is a part. Unlike NASDA, the *Wingspred* group collectively wrote:

“When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically”

--The *Wingspred* Statement on the Precautionary Principle

(Source: January/February 2014, GREEN AMERICAN, “GMOs & The Case for Precaution”; [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org))

### Microbiology Science

Marketing distortion agrochemical bias mismatches microbiology Science. The World is biologically linked to the threat to the environment. The environment needs to be addressed at every turn. If you are aware of what's happening to the natural world, then you need to have some sense of responsibility. People should be aware of the danger that the planet is in. Otherwise Man would be irresponsible. Some products are detrimental to our planet. We can't go on expanding indefinitely. Our world cannot sustain such growth.

It's important for the economy to pay attention to the environment because the bottom line is that the Planet is finite, and we are heading for disaster. World leaders need to give this kind of thinking priority and planning without any kind of coercion. We need more action, more focus on the Planet rather than on economic growth. Man's attitude needs to change because there needs to be drastic environmental improvement.

Microbiologists with WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, in Saint Louis, MISSOURI, warn that antibiotics, bactericidal drugs, lyes, parabens, PBAs, PVCs, steroids, triclosans, and VOC products impact the health of soil microbes to such an extent that soil bacteria exposed to chemicals can develop antibiotic resistant genes. Scientists now know that genes transfer to your microbiome, turning into Superbugs in your microbiome.

(January/February 2014, Issue 97, GREEN AMERICAN, "Uncovering Deadly Research Suppression and Bias Toward Biotech"; [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org))

### Medical Science

Marketing distortion agrochemical bias mismatches medical science. According to Dr. Robin Bernhoff, President of the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE (AAEM), doctors who encourage their patients to adopt GMO-free diets have noticed a lot of chronic conditions, like food and other allergies, clear up.

Medical Doctor Daphne Miller discovered exposure to healthy farm soil holds keys to healthy bodies. Dr. Miller correlates "Farm time" as a strategy to prevent the need for allergy shots or rounds of antihistamine. Medical science is discovering that health is determined by the soil and its microbes. For a dose of healthy soil bacteria, connect with fresh-grown food from healthy soil.

You can help preserve family farms and enjoy the freshness of locally-grown seasonal produce at your Farmers Market. To find locations where you can buy fresh and buy local, call 1.800.949.FARM or visit [www.FarmersMarketFresh.org](http://www.FarmersMarketFresh.org).

(Source: Winter 2014, YES! MAGAZINE, "How Dirt Heals Us"; by Daphne Miller, M.D., author of FARMCOLOGY, published by William Morrow, 2013; [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org); January/February 2014, Issue 97, GREEN AMERICAN, "Uncovering Deadly Research Suppression and Bias Toward Biotech"; [www.greenamerica.org](http://www.greenamerica.org))

### Darwinian Science

Marketing distortion agrochemical bias mismatches Darwinian Science. Charles Darwin would want you to think carefully about how pesticides drive earthworms away or kill them directly! After Darwin wrote *The Origin of Species* he went on to study earthworms. The earthworms Darwin studied in England consumed fresh and decaying vegetable matter, raw and spoiled meat, and animal fat. Earthworms eat a wide variety of plant and animal matter.

Roddy Scheer and Doug Moss with E—THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE would concur with Charles Darwin's emphasis on the importance of the EARTHWORM KINGDOM. They cited a study in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF NUTRITION that found nutrient reductions in 43 produce items over a 50-year period. Each successive generation of pesticide-resistant food is less good for you than the one before. That's because nutrient dense food requires rich topsoil.

March 27, 2014

Page 4

To attain and maintain rich soil, earthworms must be nourished. The depleted earthworm population is similar to that of the Monarch butterfly tragedy. The birds, bees, butterflies, and earthworms need to all be nourished by safeguarding their natural habitat.

But our culture has created a reality that is predicated on imbalance, extractive, and exploitive principles. Being aware of the challenges provides a compelling case for change. Probable system failure may collapse the present day's agrochemical culture into an organic one that ensures durability and resilience. The answer lies in the soil under AMERICA's feet. Soil is supposed to have a complex web of life according to Mother Nature. Consumptive, destructive, and wasteful behaviors can change. There is a shifting cultural paradigm taking place now, toward pursuit of balanced, holistic systems with transparency. There is always the possibility for positive and transformational change. In fact, nothing is so certain as change for the better.

Earthworm tunnels allow air and water to penetrate the ground and reach plant roots. A healthy earthworm population also attracts beneficial wildlife because dozens of creatures rely on earthworms as a food source, including beneficial insects, many birds such as robins, frogs, turtles, nice garden snakes, and fox that help control pests.

Around 2,700 earthworm species live in the soil. More than a third of the 180 earthworm species in NORTH AMERICA are exotic species that were introduced here, and are NOT native.

Earthworm tunnels help aerate the soil. In just one year, a healthy earthworm population can rotate 20 to 40 tons of soil per acre. As they burrow through the soil earthworms combine inorganic minerals and organic matter in their digestive tract, and turn it into concentrated nutrients called earthworm castings. Earthworms deposit their castings on the EARTH's surface and that is what builds rich, permeable topsoil for crops, flowers, trees, and vegetables to thrive in.

The more natural the farming practices, the better it is for earthworms. To attract earthworms, leave a good layer of mulch such as leaves in your crop beds. In addition to that, put garden clippings in a compost bin and earthworms will flock to it. Nutrient-packed compost enriches topsoil even more.

#### Keep Angler Worms Out of the Northern Forests

The forest ecosystem in most northern areas that were covered in glaciers during the last *Ice Age* evolved without earthworms and these forest ecosystems rely on a deep layer of leaf litter, but are now being harmed by anglers that were introduced and are NOT native. The problem is that angler worms consume the leaf litter to the point where some northern forests can no longer survive.

To prevent the spread of anglers in THE NORTH, Man must stop releasing fishing bait worms or worms you've purchased for educational or composting purposes. Do not release potted plants in forested areas because anglers are in potted plants and have been found in sites under construction in the northern forested areas.

A new study by the WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES warns that the roots of *Douglas Fir* trees in the NORTHWEST are being devoured by a fungus. The root rot is occurring from the PACIFIC OCEAN to MONTANA, and it costs the timber industry millions of dollars each year. The fungal root rot weakens *Douglas Fir* trees and leaves them susceptible to bark beetle attacks and uprooting during wind storms.

Did you know the federally managed *Land Protection Program* is funded from the development of federally owned offshore gas and oil resources. That's "*Robbing Peter to pay Paul*".

But federally owned offshore gas and oil is what funds the *Land and Water Conservation Fund*, which protects habitat for many native plants and animals in 61,700 acres of the CASCADE-SISKIYOU NATIONAL MONUMENT. The MONUMENT's biologically rich and sensitive landscape must be conserved as well as utilized for a robust recreational economy. The funds offer recreational opportunities such as camping, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, hunting, and winter sports for Man.

(Source: July/August 2009, GARDEN CLUB MAGAZINE, Backyard Wildlife, "Earthworm Kingdom, Nurture the lowly worm and reap rich earthly rewards" by David Mizejewski; [www.gardeningclub.com](http://www.gardeningclub.com); January 29, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, Oregon in Brief, "Douglas Fir rot may pose bigger threat")

#### Agritourism and Events

OREGON implemented two laws that opened up more opportunities for recreation on farmland, in 2012. Farmland events considered to be agritourism bring in revenue through events such as farm tours or weddings. Up to 18 agritourism events on a property are allowed annually, so long as the events meet local and state restrictions without taking away from the land's agricultural value.

(Source: February 24, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "Agritourism law lead to more events in Central Oregon", the Associated Press)

#### Healthy Soil Events

Cascadia Permaculture is offering "Homesteading: Permaculture whole Systems Design for Self-Reliant Living" in Kauai, HAWAII, March 30 - April 5, 2014. For more information visit [www.cascadiapermaculture.com/permaculture/courses-workshops](http://www.cascadiapermaculture.com/permaculture/courses-workshops).

In Portland, OREGON, The Lewis and Clark College is offering "Soil School" on April 5, 2014. See "Events" at [www.wmswed.org](http://www.wmswed.org).

In Corvallis, OREGON, Sunbow Farm is offering "Suburban/urban Homestead: Being your Food Source" on April 6, 2014. For more information call 541.929.5782 or visit [www.sunbowfarm.org](http://www.sunbowfarm.org).

In addition, the California School of Herbal Studies in Forestville, CALIFORNIA, connects people and plants through medicinal herb garden programs by offering one day to eight-month classes. For more information call 707.887.7457 or visit [www.cshs.com](http://www.cshs.com).

(Source: Winter 2014, IN GOOD TILTH, Volume 24, Number 4; CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF HERBAL STUDIES, [www.cshs.com](http://www.cshs.com))

#### Burt's Buzz Documentary

Who hasn't heard of BURT'S BEE personal care products and Burt's iconic bearded face. This 88-minute documentary directed by Jody Shapira features Beekeeper Burt Shavitz of MAINE. The movie finds Burt still happily living off the grid in his renovated turkey coop with no running water and only a wood-burning stove, unaffected by his fame and personal appearance travels around the world to meet his fans. Show time for the movie is on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at 3:00 p.m. at the Varsity Cinema during the Ashland Independent Film Festival, in Ashland, OREGON.

#### Brooklyn Farmer Short Documentary

Rooftop Gardens are Trending. More than 1.3 million square feet of rooftop gardens have already been installed in Washington, D.C., including the Headquarters rooftop of the American Society of Landscape Architects.

City planners across AMERICA have begun to pass incentives that encourage businesses to install green living roofs because they are proven to manage stormwater drainage, improve air quality, and reduce carbon emissions from energy consumption. Chicago, ILLINOIS, plans to create 2 billion square feet of green roof space by 2020. Other city planners are also pushing through incentives that encourage businesses to install rooftop gardens.

The World's largest rooftop farms are in New York City, NEW YORK. They are highlighted in a 27-minute movie directed by Michael Tyburski. The film is called BROOKLIN FARMER and it plays in "Short Documentaries" during the 2014 Ashland Independent Film Festival, in Ashland, OREGON. Show times are: Thursday, April 3, at 6:20 p.m.; Saturday, April 5, at 3:20 p.m.; Sunday April 6, at 9:20 p.m.; and Monday April 7, at 6:20 p.m. The film's website is: [www.grouptheory.co/brooklynfarmer](http://www.grouptheory.co/brooklynfarmer).

March 27, 2014

Page 6

### A Brighter Future

Other species, too, suffer as a result of Man's pollution of the soil and the waters. Polluted rivers and streams create massive offshore dead zones. Big Industry enslaves millions of animals to inhumane confinement, disrupts the climate, and ignores ecological and human costs. GMO food transparency and species extinction are issues that must be paid attention because the cultural paradigm is shifting toward new systems predicated on balanced, holistic, and restorative principles.

*Santa Cruz, CALIFORNIA*, passed a GMO agricultural ban in 2006. Add *Santa Cruz* to *Marin, Mendocino, Trinity* counties in CALIFORNIA, and the two counties in HAWAII.

A new publication, *Conservation Buffers in Organic Systems: Western State Implementation Guide*, is available at [www.tilth.org/education-research/organic-conservation-program/wsare-project](http://www.tilth.org/education-research/organic-conservation-program/wsare-project). It is one of a five-part guide series of resources to enable the federal ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES (EQIP) program's *Organic Initiative* for organic farmers to receive financial payments and technical support for buffer zones, cover crops, and pest management. There are three organic weed-control options: Stale seedbed, smother cropping, and solarization.

EQIP is administered by the USDA's *Natural Resources Conservation Service* (NRCS). A grant from western *Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education* (SARE) funded the NRCS venture with the *National Center for Appropriate Technology* (NCAT), the *Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation*, and *Oregon Tilth's Organic Conservation Program*.

NRCS *Technical Service Providers* and *Producers* calling themselves "*specialists*" created organic farming guidance. Your short and long-term maintenance considerations are examined according to regionally state-specific new rules. Then you get a plant list and a list of seed suppliers.

*Anne Berblinger* of *Gales Meadow Farm* in *Forest Grove, OREGON*, has already received financial and technical help from EQIP. Her website is [www.galesmeadow.com](http://www.galesmeadow.com).

(Source: Winter 2014 *Yes! Magazine*; "Editorial", by Sarah van Gelder, Co-founder and Executive Editor; [www.yesmagazine.org](http://www.yesmagazine.org); Fall 2013, Volume 24, Number 3, IN GOOD TILTH, "Conservation Buffers on Organic Farms", by Benjamin Bowell)

### Pop Quiz

What is Governor *Kitzhaber* doing about how Climate Change will affect OREGON?

---

**Fair Use Notice:** The *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are intended for educational and informational purposes only. Just in case there's any copywriter material, the use of which material may not have always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner, it is believed that the intention of these newsletters constitutes a "Fair Use" of any copyrighted material as provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. In Accordance with Title 17 U.S.C. Section 107, the *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters are distributed without profit to those who have an interest in using the included information for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material in any of the *Eco Community Dialogues* newsletters for purposes of your own that go beyond "Fair Use", you must obtain permission from the copyright owner. The information in the *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletters does not constitute legal or technical advice.

Nancy Nelson makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of all the information (Content) contained in the *Eco-Community Newsletters*. However, she makes no representations or warranties whatsoever as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability for any purpose of the Content. Any opinions and views expressed in these newsletters are the opinions and views of the authors, and should be independently verified with primary sources of information. Nancy Nelson shall not be liable for any losses, actions, claims, proceedings, demands, costs, expenses, damages and other liabilities whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with, in relation to, or arising out of the use of the Content. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, redistribution, selling, loan, licensing, sub-licensing, systematic supply, or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden. Access and use of these newsletters may be used only for research, teaching, and private study purposes.

This newsletter is not intended to provide medical advice on personal health conditions, nor to replace recommendations made by health professionals.